Are you Alice?

In the center of a gloomy forest, a Mad Hatter, a March Hare and a fast-asleep Dormouse were holding a tea party.

The huge table was heaped with sweet smelling cakes and so many cups that everything was becoming crowded. "No room! No room!" they called to Alice in loud voices, turning her away.

"That's a lie. Even though there's so many seats open, why can't I sit down?"

"It's not that you can't, or anything like that. It's only that. . don't you think it's rather rude to these guys if you plan to participate however you want without an invitation, Alice?"

Since the March Hare said it with such excessive happiness, Alice began to feel rather embarrassed.

The meaning of the March Hare's existence...
He established a good relationship with the "Mad Hatter."
Therefore, his end should definitely be
Name.
Name...
My name...
That's the name of the Dormouse's ——

If I lose the game, then my power will be transferred to you.
To even distort the game's rules so much, what in the world do you want to protect?
Only For Alice
... am I existing as the White Rabbit
EVEN IF I DIE, YOU WILL CONTINUE LIVING AND PROTECT ALICE
I'll treat it with great care, White Rabbit.
My name is "March Hare," huh?
Is that so?

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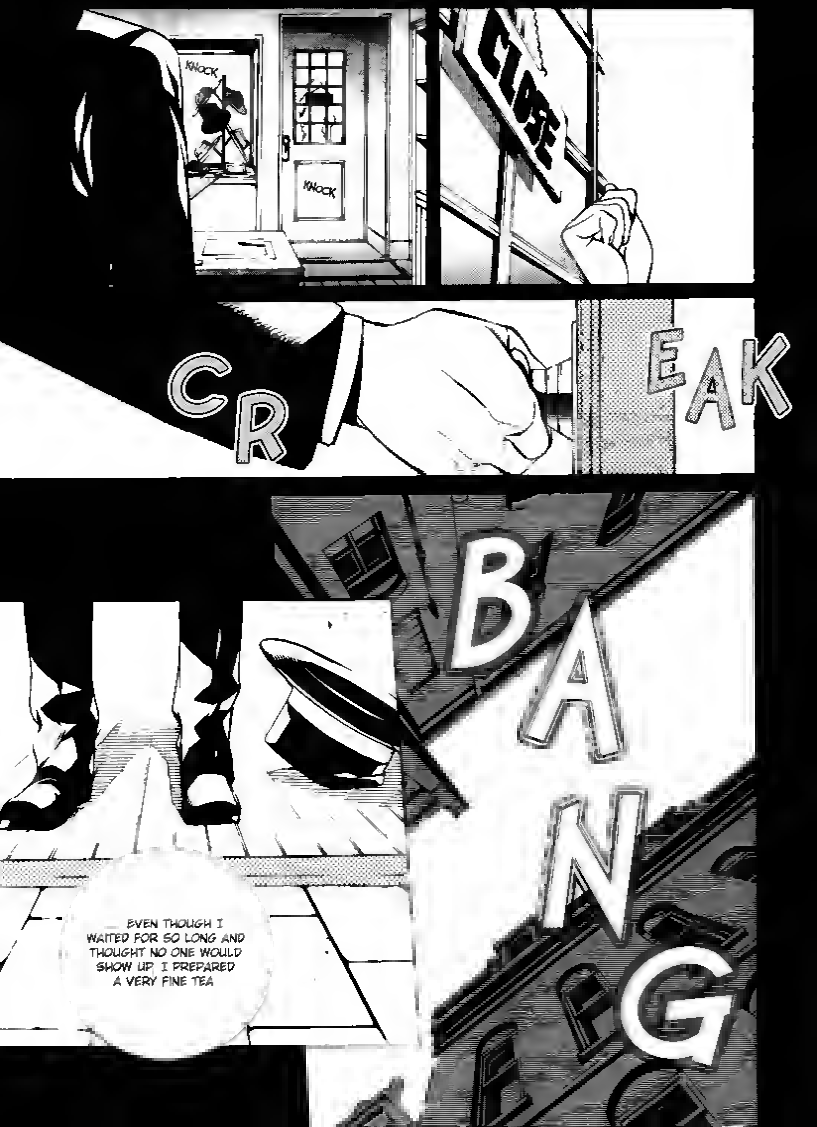
a inge c'tar - e

Why did I come to such a country!?
THUD
WHITE-CH...

IT'S MY FAULT THAT ALICE IS STILL DEAD.
WHY DIDN'T ALICE COME TO KILL ME?
WHY IS IT NO GOOD FOR ME? I CAN'T HELP ALICE AT ALL.
EVEN THOUGH I ONLY WANT TO SAVE ALICE, WHY...!
...WHITE-CHAIN...
I WAS EASILY TOSSED ASIDE.
IT'S NOT TURNING OUT HOW I'D LIKE. MY DREAMS, THE WORLD, THE STORY...
WHY ARE YOU TRYING TO PROTECT A STORY WHICH WASN'T CREATED FOR YOU...?
WHITE-CHAIN... WHY IS IT...
YOU'RE ABLE TO LIVE SO STRONGLY?

WHY...?
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? I'M HERE FOR ALICE. I CAN'T DO SOMETHING LIKE THROW HER AWAY
ALICE IS RELYING ON ME I WAS TOLD TO PROTECT WONDERLAND
I CAN'T LIVE IF ALICE ISN'T AROUND
IT'S BECAUSE ALICE IS MY EVERYTHING
AND WONDERLAND'S ALICE
... WONDERLAND'S... ALICE.
TO ME ABSOLUTE HAPPINESS IS

For me, being born as the March Hare ——


KNOCK
KNOCK
CLOSE
CR
EAK
BANG
... EVEN THOUGH I WAITED FOR SO LONG AND THOUGHT NO ONE WOULD SHOW UP, I PREPARED A VERY FINE TEA

... EVEN THOUGH THIS IS THE FIRST TIME WE'VE MET YOU'RE NOT GOING TO ASK, HUH?
FOR MY NAME
IT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE YOU HAVE ANY INTENTION OF BEING AN ALLY.
BECAUSE THE WHITE RABBIT DIDN'T GIVE ME A RULE.
... YEAH. I UNDERSTAND THAT WELL...
ONE CAN'T ESCAPE FROM THIS GAME YOU UNDERSTAND THAT, RIGHT?
IF A PERSON IN WONDERLAND HAS A NAME AND RULE THAT ALLOWS THEM TO HIT SOMEONE. THEN EVERYONE WOULD KNOW ABOUT IT
... SO IT'S NOT NECESSARY FOR ME TO TELL YOU MY NAME
I CAN'T BECOME YOUR ALLY EVEN IF I WERE TO DIE.
NICE TO MEET YOU I'M ——
YOU CAN CALL ME MITSUKI.

FROM TODAY ON, IT SEEMS YOU'LL BE A TEACHER WHO TEACHES ME THE METHOD OF MAKING DELICIOUS BLACK TEA
IF IT'S OKAY WITH YOU, WOULD YOU TEACH ME HOW TO MAKE DELICIOUS BLACK TEA?
... I'VE GOT IT.
WELL, IT'S NO USE, BUT THIS IS PROBABLY JUST RIGHT.
I'M ONLY HEARING USELESS RESISTANCE...
YOU MEAN, YOU DON'T WANT TO CALL ME BY MY NAME.
... I SEE.
PHHT

...IN NO WAY IS THAT GOING TO IRRITATE ME.
...BUT QUIT IT WITH THE "TEACHER" THING.
IF THE WHITE RABBIT IS KILLED THEN THE GAME WILL END THE MARCH HARE'S TURN DIDN'T EXIST IN THE FIRST PLACE
T A. P
E.R
YOU GAVE HIM THE HAT FOR FREE RIGHT?
THE MARCH HARE IS MY CUSTOMER.
IF HE'S ON MY SIDE THEN HE'LL HAVE A CHANCE TO KILL ICE.
I THOUGHT IT WASN'T LIKE YOU TO HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH SUCH USELESS GUYS

I MEANT TO SAY IT BEFORE. BUT I DON'T LIKE HOW YOU PUT IT
WHATEVER
AND IF HE TRIES THAT THEN YOU'LL BE ABLE TO KILL HIM
DO YOU THINK THE WHITE RABBIT KEEPS THAT GUY AT A DISTANCE?
WHY
IT'S NOT BECAUSE HE'S USELESS
IT'S BECAUSE HE DOESN'T WANT TO INVOLVE AN IMPORTANT FRIEND IN THE GAME
.... WHAT DO YOU WANT TO SAY?

I DON'T LIKE HOW YOU SAID THAT.
WHAT-EVER.
I CAN'T THINK OF A WORSE NONSPEAKING, HORRIBLE FRIEND WHO'S HAD THEIR FILL OF BLACK TEA.
... THAT'S TRUE. IF YOU'RE MY IMPOR-TANT FRIEND, THEN YOU'LL CERTAINLY BE AT THE POINT WHERE YOU WANT TO DO THINGS LIKE THAT.
... I WONDER IF, SOON, I WON'T BE ABLE TO GET INVOLVED ANYMORE EITHER, MAD HATTER-SAN.

CLINK
IF YOU KEEP DOING MEAN THINGS LIKE THAT THEN YOU'LL TRULY BE HATED.
IF YOU KNOW THAT, THEN YOU SHOULD HURRY UP AND SAVE HER.
WELL, THEN, I GUESS I SHOULD GO GREET ALICE AFTER THIS
—— IT'S TIME FOR THAT STUPID CAT TO CATCH HER.

I SEE.
SOMEWHERE WHERE YOU'RE NOT.
IF IT'S POSSIBLE TO BE HATED.
... SO? WHERE WILL YOU RUN TO THIS TIME?

... NO ONE IS ABLE TO ESCAPE FROM THIS COUNTRY.
IT'S USELESS TO EVEN BOTHER TRYING.
—BUT THERE *IS* ONE WAY.
A WAY TO EASILY ESCAPE THIS COUNTRY.
BUT I'M NOT GOING TO USE IT YET.
THIS IS MY VAIN STRUGGLE.
SINCE I HAVE MY USELESS PRIDE OF BEING USELESS
... WHAT THE *HELL* ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
SO, WHAT DO YOU THINK?

...
...I
Shake
IF IT WAS FOR THE SAKE OF BEING ALICE, THEN I WOULDN'T CARE ABOUT KILLING SOMEONE ELSE
—THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT.
BUT, I UNDER-STAND.
THAT'S NOT MY PURPOSE.
PURPOSE...

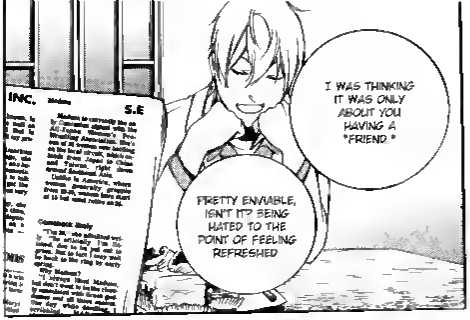
YOUR REAL PURPOSE IS TO HELP ALICE KILL THE WHITE RABBIT, ISN'T IT?
EVEN YOU GET THAT, RIGHT?
... I'M DIFFERENT FROM YOU. I CAN ONLY CLING TO A NAME AND LIVE.
SOMETHING LIKE A PURPOSE
WHAT WOULD I DO IN ORDER TO FULFILL THAT?
THERE'S NO REASON I WOULD UNDERSTAND SOMETHING LIKE THAT, RIGHT...?
Epin
... I'M GOING HOME FOR TODAY.
YOU...

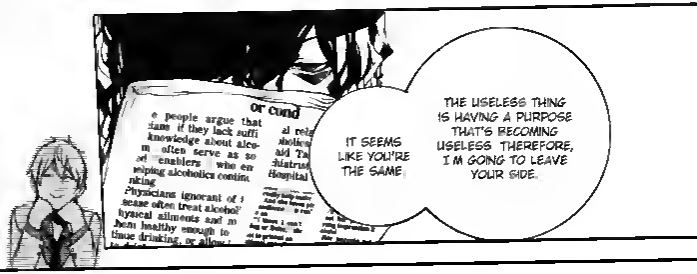
IT SEEMS I'M GOING TO NEED A SOUVENIR FOR YOU NEXT TIME, ALICE
... BUT PLEASE REMEMBER THIS WELL, YOU ARE NAIVE
WITH HYPOCRITICAL IDEAS LIKE THOSE EVERYTHING, INCLUDING THE WORLD'S WAY OF THINKING, WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO CHANGE.
THANKS FOR THE ADVICE I'M GOING TO TELL YOU SOMETHING GOOD, TOO
THIS ALICE HAS A RULE OF NOT ACCEPTING ANYTHING EXCEPT CASH PRESENTS
I'LL DO IT PROPERLY
AND AFTER THAT,
A MERE RABBIT CAN BE DECEIVED BY A CAT, CAN'T HE?
THE THINGS YOU WANT TO PROTECT, AND THE LIKE, HE'S KNOWN THEM FROM THE START.

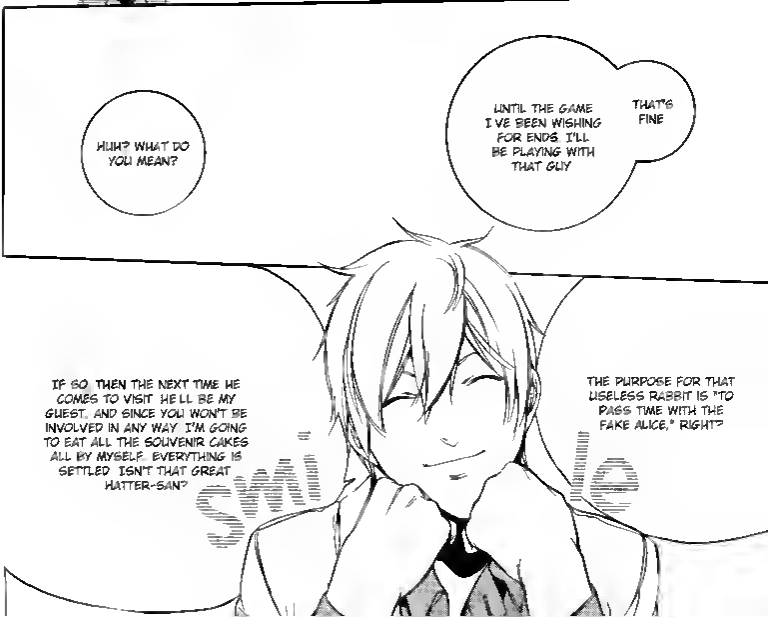
... ALICE...
... MASTER, IS IT REALLY OKAY NOT TO STOP ME?
I REALLY HATE ALICE TO THE POINT WHERE I WANT TO KILL HIM
IS IT REALLY OKAY FOR YOU NOT TO KILL ME?
CLINK
IF YOU WANT TO BE KILLED BY ME, YOU HAVE TO TRY YOUR BEST TO BECOME ALICE'S ENEMY
THAT'S THE RULE THE WHITE RABBIT DECIDED TO GIVE ME
... THAT'S SURPRISINGLY FLEXIBLE
I DON'T GET IT EVEN IF YOUR PRECIOUS ALICE DIES?
THAT GUY IS PRETTY GOOD I WONDER WHAT I SHOULD DO

LISTEN UP.
THIS IS ALL THE START OF YOUR VAIN STRUGGLE SINCE YOU GAVE YOURSELF A NAME
KEEP GOING UNTIL THE END
—MITSUKI
... I ALWAYS WANTED TO HEAR THAT
SO IT'S A VAIN STRUGGLE?
... SO, WHAT DO YOU THINK?

WHAT'S YOUR OPINION OF THE FOOD TASTING PARTY?
YO, MORE THAN JUST BEING FINE
HOW USE-LESS
SHUT UP!
I WASN'T ABLE TO KILL HIM, SINCE I'M A PACIFIST
UNFOR-TUNATELY, I DIDN'T TRY ANY OF THE FOOD
I LIKE SMOKED RABBIT MORE THAN RABBIT STEW
"YOU'RE THE THING I CAN'T STOMACH THE MOST, AFTER ALL"
OR WERE YOU JUST PRETENDING TO GET ALONG WITH HIM?
YOU KNEW HIS PURPOSE THE WHOLE TIME AND STILL GOT ALONG WITH HIM?


I WAS THINKING IT WAS ONLY ABOUT YOU HAVING A "FRIEND."
PRETTY ENVIABLE, ISN'T IT? BEING HATED TO THE POINT OF FEELING REFRESHED
IS THERE ANY SIGNIFICANCE IN HAVING TWO CHOICES?
NOT REALLY, I'M FINE WITH EITHER ONE


IT SEEMS LIKE YOU'RE THE SAME.
THE USELESS THING IS HAVING A PURPOSE THAT'S BECOMING USELESS. THEREFORE, I'M GOING TO LEAVE YOUR SIDE.


HUH? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
UNTIL THE GAME I'VE BEEN WISHING FOR ENDS, I'LL BE PLAYING WITH THAT GUY
THAT'S FINE
IF SO, THEN THE NEXT TIME HE COMES TO VISIT, HE'LL BE MY GUEST. AND SINCE YOU WON'T BE INVOLVED IN ANY WAY, I'M GOING TO EAT ALL THE SOUVENIR CAKES ALL BY MYSELF. EVERYTHING IS SETTLED, ISN'T THAT GREAT, HATTER-SAN?
THE PURPOSE FOR THAT USELESS RABBIT IS "TO PASS TIME WITH THE FAKE ALICE," RIGHT?

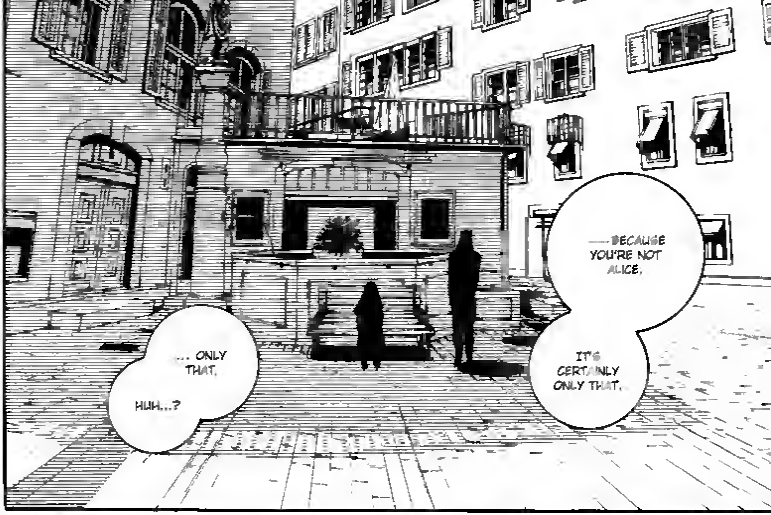
... YOU'RE REALLY NOT CUTE AT ALL
AH THAT'S RIGHT AS FOR MY FEELINGS ABOUT THE STEW
THIS ALICE-SAN IS NAIVE
AND TO SUM IT UP, JUST A WEE BIT OF HYPOCRITE FLAVORING
...WELL IF WE'RE TALKING ABOUT SWEETNESS THEN YOU'VE LOST
BEING A LITTLE SPITEFUL IS A MUST TO LIVE IN THIS WORLD, ISN'T IT?
SO IT'S OKAY IF THIS GUY IS ALSO SWEET TO THE POINT OF MAKING YOU SICK TO YOUR STOMACH, RIGHT?
Stop
DO YOU WANT A DRINK TOO?
I DON'T WANT
THAT KIND OF SUGAR-SATURATED BLACK TEA

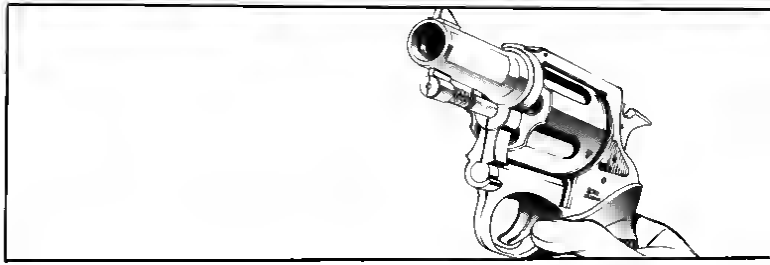
T/N: "Amai" is both "sweet" and "naive" in Japanese. So this is a constant food pun.

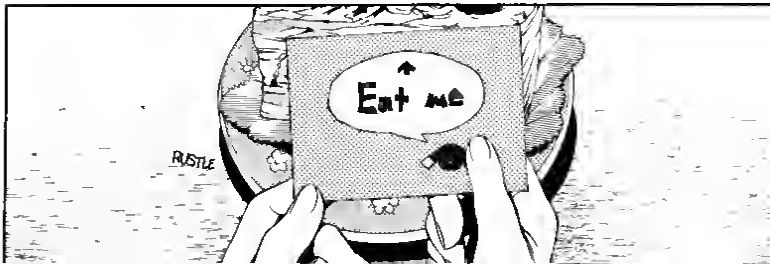
I WAS BORN FOR THE WHITE RABBIT...
I GET IT
IF I'M AROUND WHITE-CHAN ANY FURTHER...
JANGLE
THEN THE WHITE RABBIT WON'T BE ABLE TO EXIST AS THE WHITE RABBIT
...THAT'S TRUE ISN'T IT?

rustle
BECAUSE YOU'LL DEFINITELY DEPEND ON HIM.
EVEN THOUGH YOU WENT THROUGH THE TROUBLE OF BEING "FRIENDS," IT'S UNFORTUNATE
HOWEVER, YOU SHOULD HAVE A LITTLE MORE PATIENCE
THIS ALICE WILL DEFINITELY KILL THE WHITE RABBIT
— I REALLY BELIEVE THAT
IT'S SO VEXING, ISN'T IT?

WHY COULDN'T IT HAVE BEEN ME?


... ONLY THAT.
HUH...?
IT'S CERTAINLY ONLY THAT.
—BECAUSE YOU'RE NOT ALICE.




Eat me
RUSTLE

I HAVE TO FIGHT ON MY OWN.
BECAUSE THAT'S THE PROMISE I MADE TO ALICE.

SINCE IT'S FINE FOR YOU NOT TO DO ANYTHING, AND SINCE IT'S FINE THAT YOU CAN'T DO ANYTHING...
SO UNTIL THEN, YOU SHOULD CONTINUE LIVING AND WAITING...
WHEN EVERYTHING IS OVER, IT'LL BE OKAY TO MAKE FRIENDS...

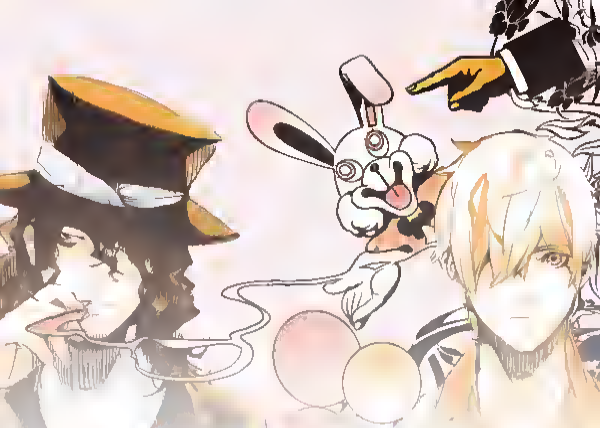
I'M SORRY.
WHITE RABBIT
MITSUKI
I'M SORRY.
BUT THEN, I DEFINITELY WON'T BE HERE ANYMORE.

BANG

CLATTER

◆ THE DESTINATION OF THE BULLET WAS——?

ZERO SUM THE AUGUST 2012 ISSUE COMES OUT JUNE 28TH!!



FALLEN SYNDICATE

presents

Are You Alice?

by Ninomiya Ai (story) and Katagiri Ikumi (art)

SCANNING Leinaud

TRANSLATING Morbid Charade

PROOFREADING lucagrabacr

CLEANING Se a la Vida E

TYPESETTING Rukayex

QUALITY CHECKING metalmallow

http://fallensyndicate.com

HERE, SOME NEW POTENTIAL PROJECTS, MISS AIMEE.
PLEASE, TAKE A LOOK. SOME OF THEM LOOK QUITE PROMISING.
PROJECTS
OHOHO? LET ME TAKE A LOOK AT THEM, THEN.
toss
WHAT DID YOU DO THAT FOR?!
WHAT?!?!
THOSE WERE REALLY GOOD!
YES, THEY WERE. BUT WE SIMPLY DONT HAVE THE STAFF FOR THEM.
AGAIN?!
I WANT MORE PROJECTS AND FASTER RELEASES!
AW CRAP, THE FANS ARE GOING TO BE PISSED.
OH WELL.
WE CAN'T DO ANYTHING WITHOUT MORE STAFF. THESE PROJECTS DON'T CLEAN THEMSELVES YOU KNOW.
INSTEAD OF COMPLAINING ABOUT IT, THEY SHOULD VOLUNTEER TO HELP OUT.
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